

Jacob Vogdes House
West side of Providence Road (LR 15107),
.4 mile south of Goshen Road (LR 15098)
Whitehorse Vicinity (Willistown Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1219

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PA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1219

JACOB VOGDES HOUSE

Location: On County Road #15107, south of County Road #15098, Whitehorse Vicinity, Willistown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania (Reference: Map of Chester County [by County Commissioners] 1956).

Present Owner: Mrs. Almira R. J. Scott, Edgemont, Pennsylvania.

Brief Statement of Significance: This handsome stone house, which dates from 1795, still retains some of its fine interior woodwork.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Joshua Howell sold tract 1783 to Jacob Vogdes, who built the house in 1795. He died 1811, and his son Aaron took it, and his heirs sold 1838 to Wm. H. Vogdes; who sold 1850 to Edward Needles; who sold 1867 to Jesse B. David; who sold 1907 to Wm. P. Davis; who sold 1912 to John W. Converse; whose heirs sold 1944 to the present owner, Mrs. Almira R. J. Scott.
2. Date of erection: Date stone in east gable reads " J E"
standing for Jacob and Elizabeth Vogdes. 1795
3. Architect, builder, supplier etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: Original plans unknown, but they were little changed from the present lay-out.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The cornice originally returned on the west wall and the water table on the south front shows there had been a pent eave along that side. The present front porch seems mid-19th century. The two-and-a-half-story wing to the east is somewhat later than the west end of the house, but probably not much. In 1958 the roof line of the east wing was lowered, exposing the 1795 date stone. The kitchen fireplace was also removed and some other changes were made.
6. Important old views and references:
Views: None known.

References: Sources of information to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. - Classified printed and manuscript files under heading: Willistown Township-Lands, and also under Vogdes Family.

B. Likely Sources Not yet Investigated: None known.

C. Supplemental Material:

1. "Village Record", West Chester, Pa. - November 10, 1866:

"Public Sale of VALUABLE REAL ESTATE, OF EDWARD P. NEEDLES, WILLISTOWN,
On 2d DAY (Monday), 3d of 12th Mo. (Dec.)

"The subscriber, about to relinquish the business of farming, will sell at public sale, on 2nd DAY (Monday), the 3rd of 12TH MONTH (December), 1866, the property on which he resides, formerly belonging to Wm. H. Vogdes, situate in Willistown township, Chester county, containing 118 1/2 ACRES and 27 Perches, be the same more or less. This property is situated on the Providence road, 1 mile north of the West Chester & Phila. road, four miles south-east from the Intersection of the Pennsylvania and West Chester Railroads, 8 miles from West Chester and 15 from Phila., bounded by lands of Ezra Thomas, Abraham H. Hall, Thomas Massey and others. The improvements consist of a large STONE MANSION HOUSE, four rooms on the first floor with a kitchen attached, five on the second, a portion of the garret being lathed, plastered and ceiled, making a well lighted and pleasant apartment; a cellar remarkable dry and well laid with a mortar floor, a pump of excellent water under cover at the door, and a Stone Spring House over an unfailing spring within thirty yards of the dwelling, sufficiently large for a dairy of 30 cows; also a large Stone Barn, double-floored, with shedding attached, built in the best manner and capable of stabling thirty head of stock, with a stream of running water in the barn yard; also corn crib, carriage house, wagon house, wood shed, hen house, hos pens, slaughter house, ice house with a pond on the premises for filing the same. The house, barn and all the outbuildings are in excellent condition, many of them having been recently constructed, and the farm is conveniently divided into fields of suitable size by good fences and stone walls. There are about 15 acres of Woodland on the property, and the remainder is arable land, of the best quality and in the highest state of cultivation, being well watered by a small stream passing through the place. There is upon the property a young and thriving Apple Orchard and a variety of other fruit trees.

"The well known character of this property for general conveniences natural fertility and high state of productiveness, together with its proximity to schools, post office, mills and places of worship, and its location in one of the most agreeable neighborhoods in the county, have justly secured for it the reputation of being one of the most desirable farms, for either grazing or dairy purposes, in Chester county.

"Those wishing to view the property previous to the day of sale will be shown the same by calling on the subscriber residing thereon. Sale to commence at 1 o'clock on said day, when conditions will be made known by
EDWARD P. NEEDLES

Geo. Kirt, Auc."

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August 1958
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Despite some alterations and additions, there appears to be little difference between the original and present layout of this house.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main section is approximately 30' (three-bay front) x 33' with a setback wing to the east 15' (two-bay front) x 21'. The house is two-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stone.
4. Chimneys: Original; but chimney of kitchen fireplace removed recently.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Seem original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Seem original.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Steep pitch gable with wooden shingle roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Original; cornice originally extended across west side.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: There is a wide hall with fine stairway and two rooms to the west. The wing to the east is somewhat later, but creates a type of center hall house.
2. Stairways: Very fine.
3. Flooring: Some changes have been made; floors in west part of first floor are old, but are probably replacements.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster; cornice in southwest room.
5. Doorways and doors: Mostly original.
6. Trim: Mostly original.
7. Hardware: Mostly original.
8. Lighting: Modern electricity.
9. Heating: kitchen fireplace removed; others remain. Central heating introduced.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House faces south and is well placed on a southern slope overlooking fine meadows.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Good barn and other buildings.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Well planted.

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